

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action mailed 29 January 2003 (Paper No. 7). Claims 1-17 were pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10-12 have been amended herein. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Claims 13-17 have been withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, following entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-12 will be pending.

As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification noting two typographical errors. Applicants have amended the specification to correct these errors. Applicants submit that these amendments correct obvious typographical errors and that no new matter has been added to the specification by these amendments.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to Claim 6 as unclear in view of the term "and body." Applicants have deleted the term and body and further amended Claim 6 to clarify the embodiment claimed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,434,316 (Neary). Claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Neary because Neary does not disclose or suggest a holder located between an end surface of a flange, which fits in a recess, and a bottom surface of the recess. As best viewed in figure 4 of Neary, a spring 118 is located between an end surface of a flange 117 and a cone 121, not between the end surface of the flange 117 and a bottom surface of a recess. That is, the cone 121 is necessary to support the spring 118. Conversely, the key cylinder of the present invention the holder is located between the end surface of the flange and the bottom surface of the recess. Since a supporting member such as the cone is unnecessary, the number of components is decreased.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,655,028 (Jacobi'028). Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 12 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9 noted to be allowable by the Examiner at page 5 of

Paper No. 7. Applicants submit that these amendments overcome the Examiner's rejections based on Jacobi'028.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,143,874 (Jacobi'874). Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 12 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9 noted to be allowable by the Examiner at page 5 of Paper No. 7. Applicants submit that these amendments overcome the Examiner's rejections based on Jacobi'874.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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